

Here the correspondence between the two brothers was suspended for a time; but Louis still continued exposed to new vexations on the part of Napoleon. About the end of 1X09 the Emperor summoned all the sovereigns who might be called his vassals to Paris. Among the number was Louis, who, however, did not show himself very willing to quit his States. He called a council of his Ministers, who were of opinion that for the interest of Holland he ought to make this new sacrifice. He did so with resignation. Indeed, every day passed on the throne was a sacrifice made by Louis.

He lived very quietly in Paris, and was closely watched by the police, for it was supposed that as he, had come against his will he would not protract his stay so long as Napoleon wished. The system of espionage under which he found himself placed, added to the other circumstances of his situation, inspired him with a degree of energy of which he, was not believed to be capable ; and amidst the general silence of the servants of the Empire, and even of the Kings and Princes assembled in the capital, he ventured to say, " I have been deceived by promises which were never intended to be kept. Holland is tired of being the sport of France." The Emperor, who was unused to such language as this, was highly interested at it. Louis had now no alternative but to yield to the incessant exactions of Napoleon or to see Holland united to France. He chose the latter, though not before he had exerted all his feeble power in behalf of the subjects whom Napoleon had consigned to him; but he would not be the, accomplice of the man who had resolved to make those subjects the* victims of his hatred against England. Who, indeed, could be so blind as not to see that the ruin of the Continent would be the triumph of British commerce ?

but about Franco. I am very well aware that it is not to your bcnafft, and that you very possibly lone by it, but what doan that signify If it lx» for th^e good of France? I toll you, then, that in every country where there i» a monopoly of tobacco, but which is oontiguotH to »»n« when! the gain ii free, « regular smuggling infiltration must l w rerkomxl on, Mtippling the coiummp- tmuijw to the duty. That is what I intend to preserve* France from, You fruitt protect, youngtvcrt as well as you can from this infiltration. It is enough for mu to drive it back more than twenty or twenty-five miles from my frontier

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vol. ii. p. 26).

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